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RECENT BOOKS OF INTEREST
TO TEACHERS

MAKING A HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM, by Myron W. Richardson. Yonkers-on-Hudson, N. Y.: World Book Co. 1921. 27 pages. (75 cents).

In this little book of 27 pages is found a clear and concise exposition of some vitally important general principles underlying all program making in all high schools. To the efficient principal or program maker of the modern high school it will give expert assistance.

The principles outlined by Mr. Richardson have been tested in the Harrisonburg High School, which has an enrollment of 200 pupils, and found applicable and most satisfactory, thereby solving a problem that was beginning to assume a seemingly insoluble difficulty. A brief review of the book will confirm the statement that the principles are even more applicable to high schools of larger enrollments.

The outstanding features of the system are: the clear and practical application of the block system of program making, the selection of work by the pupils as an aid in making the program efficient, and the actual making of the program—all of which features are made clear by explanations, diagrams and charts.

NORMAN E. SMITH

A BOOK OF SHORT STORIES, by Blanche Colton Williams. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1920. 291 pages.

This is a collection of stories for use in high schools, edited with introduction, notes, and biographies of the authors.

The editor has kept several objects in mind: to chose interesting stories, because the first end of good fiction is entertainment; to suggest something of the development of the modern short-story by chronological order; to include in the range of locality the East, West and South of the United States, and France and England; to represent various types of stories—the story of local color, of character, of atmosphere, and of plot. Variation is found even in the length of stories.

There are stories by Irving, Mrs. Freeman, Stevenson, O. Henry, Hamlin Garland and others. One of special interest to Virginians is "Molly McGuire, Fourteen," by Frederick Greene, which has its setting at the V. M. I. and is teeming with local color.

MARGARET V. HOFFMAN

THE VITAMINE MANUAL, by Walter H. Eddy. Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Company. 1921. 121 pages. (\$2.50).

This "Presentation of Essential Data about the New Food Factors" gives to the layman the latest theories of nutrition, and to the student methods for laboratory testing for vita-

mines, a comprehensive discussion of the chemical and physiological properties of vitamins, a history of the development of the subject, and a complete bibliography of all subject matter published up to the present time.

In summarizing the subject matter of so large a number of research workers and putting the data before the student Dr. Eddy has performed a real service, but his practical application of all this subject matter from a dietary point of view is of the greatest value to the layman. He warns of the dangers of vitamin-deficiency diseases in infant feeding when milk substitutes are used, and advises teaching children concerning vitamins, so that they may better choose their own foods, and lay a foundation for better health and citizenship.

"The adult," Dr. Eddy says, "needs to review his feeding habits and analyze them in the light of our new knowledge." Concerning the present day fad of eating yeast cakes because of their high vitamin content he says "the same arguments apply to the use of medicinal concentrates of vitamins as apply to the use of laxatives. At times these substances are very valuable as cures, but it is better by far to so regulate the dietary habits as to avoid the necessity for their use."

"The whole subject is in too active a state of investigation," Dr. Eddy thinks, "to permit more than a record of events and their apparent bearing", but student and layman alike should be grateful indeed for the clear, concise manner in which the existing data has been arranged and presented, not only because it marked a development in scientific research but because of its very evident bearing upon the health of each individual.

GRACE BRINTON

CAKES, PASTRY AND DESSERT DISHES, by Janet M. Hill. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 1920. 276 pages. (\$2.00).

The name itself makes one long to open the book and find a fund of new ideas. For that is really what one will find in this book, which covers a wide variety of dishes meant to please.

Who does not feel that the crowning point of the dinner, no matter how simple, is the dessert? What housewife or child does not scan pages on culinary topics for a new idea for culminating a most enjoyable meal? So here one may find just this "something different" from the simplest cake to the most elaborate confection. And, as usual from the pen of Mrs. Hill, the recipes are easily interpreted and for the finished product not necessarily extravagant. One can find a recipe for some dish that she can easily prepare and which is well within the limits of her pocket-book.

Then if she cares to have something different and is anxious to please an epicurean friend, she will be satisfied if she avails herself of the splendid recipes found in this book.

MYRTLE L. WILSON

COMMON SENSE IN SCHOOL SUPERVISION, by Chas. A. Wagner. Milwaukee, Wis.: The Bruce Publishing Company. 1921. 204 pages. (\$1.30).

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES OF VISITS. Bound in duplicate. 75 cents a pad.

SUPERVISOR'S NOTES OF VISITS. Bound in duplicate. 35 cents a pad.

The author of this book is himself a school superintendent who has done systematic supervision of the instruction in his schools. He has worked out a systematic program for supervision, including a set of observation blanks for an easy checking up of the work of the teacher visited. These blanks are quite suggestive. The use of such a form is liable to emphasize details but it does give the teacher a definite evaluation of her work.

It is natural that a book growing out of an actual situation should be practical and full of tangible suggestions. One can only wish that it were better written. The chapter organization is so poor that it is almost impossible to follow. Moreover the sentence structure is often exceedingly faulty.

KATHERINE M. ANTHONY

A SHORT HISTORY OF EARLY PEOPLES, by Willis M. West. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. 1922. 355 pages. (\$1.60).

The preceding books of Professor West have made all his readers familiar with his lucid, vigorous style, and we are therefore prepared to expect a high grade of excellence in this new volume; and as one opens the book and turns one page after another he is not disappointed. The author well sustains his deserved reputation, while the publishers, if possible, have outdone themselves in the arts of printer, engraver, and binder. The wealth of pictures and maps is unusual. The full page illustrations in rich colors add a rare attractiveness to the volume. The drawings that illustrate primitive life are especially good. The story begins with the cave man and comes down to Columbus—to A. D. 1500. Greece, Rome, Romano-Teutonic Europe, and the age of the Renaissance are the large subjects of the story. Government, society, and the conduct of daily life are among the topics that are emphasized. It should be a delight to teacher and pupil alike to use this book.

JOHN W. WAYLAND

MODERN ESSAYS FOR SCHOOLS, selected by Christopher Morley. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. 1921. 256 pages. (\$1.00).

Twenty-two essays, eleven by Americans, nine by Englishmen, and two by Canadians—almost all of them the work of "practicing journalists"—are here collected in a neat little volume that I believe is destined to enjoy a wide use in English classes.

To those who find contemporary writers preoccupied with Carol Kennicutt's unrest, these essays will bring a sense of serenity. They carry us into the hay-fields of England; into a religious peasant-home of France; to a frozen river "a winding mile from the mill-dam to the railroad trestle, where the hills

are clothed in silver mist which frames them in vignettes with blurred edges;" to Niagara where "on the edge of disaster the river seems to gather herself, to pause, to lift a head noble in ruin, and then, with a slow grandeur, to plunge into the eternal thunder and white chaos below."

There are essays with a biographical turn some concerned with literary criticism, some quickened with narrative, some rich with the humor of Max Beerbohm or Stephen Leacock. These pieces are full of graphic phrasing, and will undoubtedly stimulate students studying the art of writing. It is an admirable collection.

C. T. LOGAN

THE NATION AND THE SCHOOLS, by John A. H. Keith and William C. Bagley. New York: Macmillan Company. 1920. 364 pages. (\$1.80).

The purpose of this book is to argue for the establishment of a Federal Department of Education and for a Secretary of Education in the President's Cabinet.

The book first traces the growth of the policy of Federal aid from 1785 to the present time. Next, the present day problems and defects of public education are considered. The last part of the book is given over to a thorough discussion of the Towner-Sterling Bill as the solution of many educational difficulties.

The book is well written, and the facts and arguments clearly presented. Those interested in educational administration will wish to give the book a prominent place in their libraries.

ISABEL A. SPARROW

THE CLOUDS OF ARISTOPHANES, edited by Cyril Bailey. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1921. 133 pages.

The Clarendon series of Latin and Greek authors owes its publication to the soundness of the claim that "in the effort to make out each individual sentence of Caesar, the pupil becomes blind to Caesar's meaning." The editors here extend to Greek drama the principle already employed in the Latin classics of printing about two-thirds of the text in English, leaving for translation the most interesting and the most typical passages.

VIII

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Everyone is wondering what became of the Winter Quarter. There is general agreement that only a few weeks ago we sighed because the Christmas vacation was over and it was time to get back to work!—Well, we must have been working for what seemed like a few weeks was really three months, and now Seniors are on what they call the Home Stretch.

Examinations were all scheduled for Thursday and Friday, March 16 and 17,